

Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.

International:**Bilateral treaty only means to readjust domestic tariffs for US**

- Government revenue authorities find limited scope to satisfy the Trump administration by reducing tariffs for US imports unless Bangladesh goes for bilateral treaty -- the only byway to skip set world trade rules. Though import duty on 110 products has been waived in the current fiscal year's budget, the step could not make the US government happy to reconsider a major cut in its previously declared 37% tariffs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bilateral-treaty-only-means-to-readjust-domestic-tariffs-for-us-1751997025>

Macro:**BB to seek new investors for Nagad**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Ahsan H Mansur said the Directorate of Posts, which owns mobile financial service provider Nagad, does not have the capacity to run it efficiently, making it necessary to bring in new investors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-seek-new-investors-nagad-3935426>

Reserves slip to USD 24.45 Bn

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 2.02 Bn after routine payments under the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism on Monday. However, calculated under the IMF's prescribed method, reserves stood at USD24.45 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reserves-slip-2445b-3935411>

Trump's trade war promises no real endgame

- The reward for negotiators from South Africa to Malaysia working to reach a deal with the White House: three more weeks in the pressure cooker. On Monday, President Donald Trump again extended his deadline to seal country-by-country trade agreements, this time until August 1. The announcement came posed as a threat, with letters sent to a group of world leaders declaring that their exports would be subject to levies ranging from 25% to 40% next month. Effectively a reminder of Trump's "Liberation Day" tariff threats, his whack-a-mole demands portend ill for any deals that are struck.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trumps-trade-war-promises-no-real-endgame-3935391>

Reciprocal tariff shock: navigating Bangladesh's export vulnerability and strategic response

- The United States' levying a reciprocal tariff of 35% on Bangladeshi exports is a harsh economic blow, especially to the readymade garment industry. With US tariffs on Bangladeshi imports now nearly doubling from roughly 15% earlier, this sharp and dramatic hike has the potential to erode the price competitiveness of Bangladesh's garments in its biggest export market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reciprocal-tariff-shock-navigating-bangladeshs-export-vulnerability-and-strategic-response-3934686>

Dhaka hopeful of reaching tariff deal with Washington: CA press secretary

- Bangladesh is hoping to secure a mutually beneficial tariff agreement with the United States as negotiations continue in Washington DC, according to Shafiqul Alam, press secretary at the Chief Adviser's Office. In a Facebook post today, Alam said Commerce Adviser SK Bashir Uddin is leading the country's trade delegation to Washington, with National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman also part of the team.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-hopeful-reaching-tariff-deal-washington-ca-press-secretary-3934676>

Japan chamber to submit EPA proposal to govt

- The Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) will submit its proposal to the government regarding the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan, based on feedback received from its members.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/japan-chamber-submit-epa-proposal-govt-3935041>

Bangladesh's economic expansion slows in June as growth weakens in key sector: PMI

- Bangladesh's economy expanded at a slower pace last month, as the June reading of the Bangladesh Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) declined by 5.8 points from the previous month, recording a slower expansion rate of 53.1.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-economic-expansion-slows-june-growth-weakens-key-sector-pmi-1183736>

US wants easier access for military equipment, LNG, wheat, cotton imports: Commerce secretary

- In the latest documents, the United States has requested easier access for exports of certain products to Bangladesh, Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman said today (8 July). These include military equipment, Boeing aircraft, liquefied natural gas (LNG), wheat, agricultural products, and cotton. However, no mention was made of automobiles in the US proposal.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/us-wants-easier-access-military-equipment-lng-wheat-cotton-imports-commerce-secretary>

Bangladesh reserves above USD 24 Bn even after making USD 2 Bn ACU payment

- Despite making a substantial payment of USD 2.02 Bn in import bills through the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), the Bangladesh Bank has managed to maintain a relatively stable foreign exchange reserve position.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/gross-forex-reserve-fell-24-bn-after-acu-payment-1183186>

Japan-only bidders, fat quotes and no room to negotiate

- A fresh dilemma has emerged in Dhaka's ambitious metro-rail expansion as the state-owned operator faces exorbitant bids from a narrow pool of Japanese firms. Despite interest from companies worldwide, restrictive Japan-specific tender conditions have effectively sidelined all but a few players, resulting in a staggering 162% cost overrun in one major contract package, sources said

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/japan-only-bidders-fat-quotes-and-no-room-to-negotiate-1751997220>

Sector & Industries:**TEXTILE | Bangladesh retains 2nd spot in global apparel exports**

- Bangladesh maintained its position as the world's second-largest apparel exporter in 2024, behind only China, according to World Trade Organization (WTO) data. The nation exported garments worth USD 38.48 Bn last year, marking a slight increase of 0.21% year-on-year. This export value represented 6.90% of the total global market, which stood at USD 557.50 Bn in 2024. A year earlier, Bangladesh's market share in apparel was 7.38%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-retains-2nd-spot-global-apparel-exports-3935421>

RMG | Trump's 35% tariff zaps Bangladesh's USD 8.4 Bn export lifeline

- In 2024, bilateral trade between the US and Bangladesh reached USD 10.6 Bn. Of this, USD 8.4 Bn came from Bangladeshi exports to the US, and USD 2.2 Bn the other way around. A polo shirt says it all. When a Bangladeshi exporter ships one to the United States at USD10, the American buyer ends up paying USD11.16 — courtesy of a 16% import duty. But from 1 August, if the newly announced 35% tariff by the Trump administration kicks in, the same shirt will cost USD15.10 — a 51% jump.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/trumps-35-tariff-zaps-bangladeshs-84-billion-export-lifeline-1183926>

IT | Govt plans 'fibre optic bank' to use idle networks

- The government has decided to establish a national "fibre optic bank", which will bring all unused fibre optic resources from state-owned entities under a single platform in a bid to accelerate digital transformation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-plans-fibre-optic-bank-use-idle-networks-3935416>

FUEL & power | Almost all overdue payments to IPPs cleared

- The interim government has cleared almost all the overdue payments to privately-owned power plants to ensure increased electricity supply from such plants in the future. The payment backlog to privately owned power plants now stands only at around BDT 35 Bn, only around 14% of the all-time high overdue payments worth BDT 250 Bn a couple of years back, said sources.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/almost-all-overdue-payments-to-ipps-cleared-1751997610>

FUEL & POWER | Purchase body approves import of LNG cargo, urea

- The government on Tuesday approved several procurement proposals, including one for importing a cargo of LNG and another for procuring 30,000 tonnes of urea fertiliser.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/purchase-body-approves-import-of-lng-cargo-urea-1751996220>

FUEL & POWER | Oil prices ease as traders assess US tariffs and OPEC+ output boost

- Oil prices retreated on Tuesday, having climbed almost 2% in the previous session, as investors assessed the latest developments on US tariffs and a higher than expected increase to OPEC+ output for August. Brent crude futures fell 12 cents, or about 0.2%, to USD 69.46 a barrel by 1043 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude lost 25 cents, or about 0.4%, to USD 67.68.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/oil-prices-ease-as-traders-assess-us-tariffs-and-opec-output-boost-1751996384>

Stocks:**GLOBALINS | Global Insurance gains 14% higher income on increased return from govt securities**

- Global Insurance secured a 14% year-on-year growth in profit to BDT 64 Mn in 2024, supported by higher investment income in a challenging business climate. Subsequently, the general insurer's consolidated earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 1.58 for 2024, up from BDT 1.38 for the previous year, according to a stock exchange filing on Tuesday

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/global-insurance-gains-14pc-higher-income-on-increased-return-from-govt-securities-1751996151>

PRIMEBANK | Highest credit rating: What it means to Prime Bank, customers and stakeholders

- The Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB) has recently awarded the Prime Bank PLC, one of the leading private commercial banks, triple A (AAA) for long-term and ST-1 for short-term, a recognition more than technical accolade; it is a recognition of the Bank's 30-year journey rooted in service, stability, and societal contribution.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/highest-credit-rating-what-it-means-to-prime-bank-customers-and-stakeholders-1751996188>

EXCHANGE | Cost-incentive mismatch explains companies' reluctance to list

- A mismatch between the expenses of listing and incentives offered by the government is the reason why companies are reluctant to enter the secondary market, said speakers at a discussion on the capital market on Tuesday. "No one comes to the capital market out of their corporate social responsibility. We (businesses) come to the market for raising funds when risk-return tradeoff looks promising," said Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear Limited.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/cost-incentive-mismatch-explains-companies-reluctance-to-list-1751996102>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 68.24	(USD 3.19)	-4.47%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 70.05	(USD 4.34)	-5.83%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,294.03	USD 685.55	26.28%
DSEX	4,981.64	-234.81	-4.50%
S&P 500	6,225.52	318.58	5.39%
FTSE 100	8,854.18	733.17	9.03%
BSE SENSEX	83,712.51	5,512.58	7.05%
KSE-100	133,403.19	18,144.19	15.74%
CSEALL	18,032.12	2,087.51	13.09%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.10 BDT****1 GBP = 165.70 BDT****1 Euro = 142.97 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Rakibul Hasan	Research Associate	rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (88)-02-222282446-47

Fax: + (88)-02-222282452

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com